

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 97-239-C - ORDER NO. 1999-319

MAY 5, 1999

IN RE: Proceeding to Establish Guidelines for an Intrastate Universal Fund.)))	ORDER GRANTING RECONSIDERATION
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JMR

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the Motion for Reconsideration of Order No. 1999-221 filed by BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. (BellSouth), and the Petition for Rehearing and Reconsideration of that same Order filed by the South Carolina Telephone Association. The gravamen of both the Motion and the Petition is that we should reconsider and remove from Order No. 1999-221 a reference to a \$15.00 charge that certain other parties have suggested would be applied to each access line in the State. Both documents have alleged that this Commission should not use this reference to support our decision to postpone our next hearing on the Universal Service Fund (USF). This reference is termed an "erroneous" one.

Responses to the Motion and Petition have been received from the Consumer Advocate for the State of South Carolina (the Consumer Advocate), the Southeastern Competitive Carriers Association (SECCA), MCI Corporation (MCI), and AT&T Communications of the Southern States, Inc. (AT&T). The gist of the responses is that the reference to the average charge of \$15.00 or more per access line per month does not appear as a finding of fact in Order No. 1999-221, but only that the Order states this as

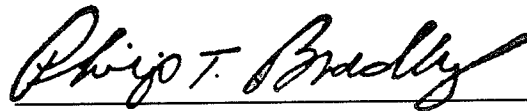
the position of the Joint Movants. Since no finding of fact in this regard was made, the responses assert that no reconsideration of the Order is necessary.

We have reexamined our Order No. 1999-221, and agree with the responses that no finding of fact was made with regard to the alleged \$15.00 or more charge per access line. We merely attempted to state a position proffered by the Joint Movants. The “\$15.00” statement was not really used to support our conclusion to postpone the USF hearing. Further, we do not believe that inclusion of the position of the Joint Movants prejudiced any party.

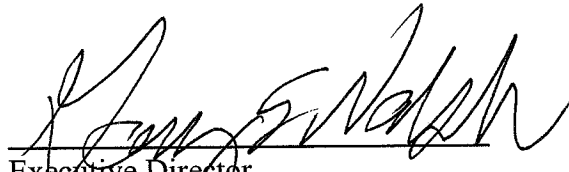
However, having said all that, we hereby grant reconsideration anyway and we hereby remove the reference to the \$15.00 or more charge per access line. Since the statement is not prejudicial, and since it was not used as a finding of fact to support our conclusion in the previous Order, we see no reason to leave it in our Order if a party objects to it. We do not believe that removing the statement harms or prejudices any party. The reference to the \$15.00 is therefore removed from Order No. 1999-221.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the
Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director
(SEAL)